

SALARY OF POSTMASTER AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 19, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BINGHAM, from the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2917.]

The Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2917) fixing the salary of the postmaster at Washington, D. C., submit the following report:

Your committee having communicated with the Postmaster-General and received the accompanying letter regarding this measure, report the bill to the House with the recommendation that the same do pass.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., January 20, 1898.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 19th instant inclosing House bill 4747, which provides that the salary of the postmaster at the city of Washington, D. C., shall be \$6,000 per annum, beginning the 1st day of July, 1898.

In this connection I desire to draw your attention to the following facts submitted in my letter of the 13th instant to the Committee on Post-Office and Post-Roads, United States Senate:

Date.	Gross receipts.	Number clerks.	Carrier stations	Sub-stations.	Stamp agencies.
1882-83	\$292,756	160	2	4	23
1894-95	586,866	303	6	34	42

By the act of March 3, 1883 (par. 4, 22 Stat. L., 602), embodied in Postal Laws and Regulations, section 409, edition of 1893, the compensation of the postmaster at Washington, D. C., was fixed at \$5,000 per annum, when on the basis of the gross receipts of the office at that time (\$292,756) the salary would have been placed, under section 410, Postal Laws and Regulations, edition of 1893, at \$3,700 per annum. It was clearly the intention of the act above referred to to increase the salary of the postmaster at Washington to the extent of \$1,300 per annum to provide for the increased service performed by him in view of the large amount of Governmental franked mail matter then handled through his office. Since 1883 the gross

receipts of the Washington office have increased \$294,110.42, or 101 per centum. The commercial matter revenue of the Washington post-office to-day entitles the postmaster to a salary of \$5,000 per annum, and on this basis, plus \$1,300 increase in the year 1883, allowed the postmaster at that time, the salary would reach \$6,300 per annum, irrespective of the increase in governmental franked matter from that period.

In addition to the information shown above, the bond of the postmaster was increased on November 11, 1894, from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The postmaster at Washington, D. C., has always on hand a supply of postal cards amounting to between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for distribution to other offices.

In report of the Postmaster-General for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895, appeared a tabulated statement showing the registry business of the Washington City post-office as ranking third in the United States. Chicago, the second city in the United States in point of gross receipts, handled 3,272,677 packages during the fiscal year, and Washington, D. C., 2,944,173 packages. The value of the governmental business passing through the Washington City registry division amounted to \$698,250,862.82. In addition, commercial pieces to the value of several millions of dollars were also handled.

A fair guide by which to arrive at the amount of business carried on by the Washington City post-office can be secured by comparison with clerk hire allowance and number of men employed at several of the \$6,000 offices. Comparative statement is shown below:

Office.	Salary of post-master.	Gross receipts.	Number clerks.
Buffalo, N. Y.....	\$6, 000	\$650, 743	138
Pittsburg, Pa.....	6, 000	642, 797	156
Cleveland, Ohio.....	6, 000	614, 584	119
Washington, D. C.....	5, 000	586, 866	303

If the clerical force and the gross receipts of the Buffalo post-office are used as a factor, then the gross receipts of the Washington post-office on a basis of commercial rates would amount to \$1,428,645; if Pittsburg is taken, the gross receipts would be \$1,248,360; Cleveland, \$1,564,692.

You, of course, are familiar with the present law, which provides that when the gross receipts of an office exceed \$600,000 the salary of the postmaster shall be fixed at \$6,000 per annum.

In view of the foregoing facts, the salary of the postmaster at Washington should, in my opinion, be at least \$6,000.

I shall be very glad to furnish you any additional information that you may desire in regard to this matter.

Very respectfully,

JAS. A. GARY, *Postmaster-General.*

Hon. HENRY H. BINGHAM,

Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, House of Representatives.